

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 27, with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to Fig. 1, an asymmetric access system 1 includes a terminal device 2 which may be any suitable terminal device such as a personal computer, a server, and/or a settop device. The terminal device 2 may include a storage device 20 such as a hard disk, DVD storage, or WORM storage. A driver 22 may interface the storage device 20 with one or more applications 7. The applications 7 may, for example, include an Internet browser, e.g., "Explorer" running on top of a standard TCP/IP protocol stack 8 e.g., the protocol stack in "Windows 95". The TCP/IP stack 8 in the terminal device 2 need not be modified or customized to accommodate the present asymmetric access system 1. The terminal device 2 preferably includes a unified driver 9. The unified driver 9 may interface to any number of physical communication interfaces such as a satellite card 19 and a modem 10. The modem 10 may be variously configured to include any modulation scheme. The modem may be coupled to a data link 12 such as the public switched telephone network (PSTN) and/or a cable network. The modem 10 may be coupled through the data link 12 to an ISP 13 which may be coupled to the Internet 21. Alternately, the modem 10 may interface directly to the NOC 4 via the PSTN 12. The Internet 21 may have one or more Internet Hosts 5 located at various server addresses such as "http://www.cnn.com". The Internet 21 may also be coupled to a network operation center 4. The network operation center 4 may be coupled via uplink 17 to a satellite 6 which may, in turn, be coupled to a satellite downlink 18. The satellite downlink 18 may be broadcast to a number of locations such as to the satellite card 19 of the terminal device 2. The terminal device 2 may have a co-located satellite receiver 23.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 26, with the following amended paragraph:

Figs. 3-6 3-5 are block diagrams of different embodiments of the asymmetric satellite system in accordance with aspects of the present invention.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. ~~6A~~ 6 shows an embodiment where a microwave transmission replaces the satellite transmission in embodiments of the present invention.